

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amended claims: 1-9, 12, and 14. Cancelled claim 15.

1. (Currently Amended) An assembly for use in a wellbore formed in an earth formation, comprising:

an expandable tubular element and an outer structure having first portion and a second portions arranged at a distance from each other;

~~said~~ the first portions and the second portion being restrained to the tubular element in a manner that ~~said~~ the distance changes as a result of radial expansion of the tubular element;

the outer structure further having a third portion arranged to move radially outward upon ~~said~~ the change in distance between the first and second portions;

wherein ~~said~~ the radially outward movement of the third portion is larger than the radially outward movement of the tubular element as a result of radial expansion of the tubular element;

wherein the tubular element is susceptible of axial shortening upon radial expansion thereof; and

wherein said first portion and the second portions of the outer structure are connected to the tubular element at respective locations axially spaced from each other.

2. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the third portion is arranged to move radially outward as a result of a decrease in distance between the first portion and the second portions.

3. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the third portion is arranged to move radially outward by virtue of radially outward bending of the third portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the first portion and the second portions of the outer structure are welded to the tubular element at ~~said~~ respective locations axially spaced from each other.

5. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claims 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein ~~said~~ the tubular element is an inner tubular element and the outer structure is an outer expandable tubular element arranged around the inner tubular element, and wherein the outer tubular element, when unrestrained from the inner tubular element, is susceptible to less axial shortening as a result of radial expansion than the inner tubular element.

6. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the outer tubular element is provided with a plurality of openings in the wall thereof, said openings overlapping each other in the axial direction.

7. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 6, wherein said openings are slots provided in the wall of the outer expandable tubular element, the slots extending ~~in~~ substantially in the axial direction.

8. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 5 ~~any one of claims 5-7~~, wherein ~~said~~ the first portion and the second portions are the respective end portions of the outer tubular element.

9. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 5 ~~any one of claims 5-8~~, wherein an annular space is formed between the inner tubular element and the outer tubular element upon radial expansion of the inner tubular element, said space being filled with a fluidic compound.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein said space is filled with a hardenable fluidic compound.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10, wherein a flexible layer of sealing material is arranged around the outer tubular element.

12. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer structure includes at least one elongate member extending in the axial direction of the tubular element.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the outer structure includes a plurality of said elongate members regularly spaced along the circumference of the tubular element.

14. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein each said elongate members is a metal bar.

15. (Canceled)